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The arrangement of the specimens is in accordance with the Genera Plantarum of Bentham and Hooker. The number of shelves or spaces occupied by the larger natural orders is about as follows: Ranunculaceæ 12, Cruciferæ 20, Caryophyllaceæ 12, Malvaceæ 12, Leguminosæ 80, Rosaceæ 35, Onagraceæ 14, Umbelliferæ 20, Rubiaceæ 16, Compositæ 180, Ericaceæ 18, Borraginaceæ 14, Solanaceæ 12, Scrophulariaceæ 25, Labiatæ 24, Polygonaceæ 18, Euphorbiaceæ 15, Cupuliferæ 16, Coniferæ 20, Liliaceæ 22, Cyperaceæ 36, Gramineæ 120, Filices 40.

No complete catalogue of the plants has been made, but it is estimated that of the 10,000 or more species of the United States (excluding the cellular cryptogams) there are represented about nine-tenths. Of foreign plants the Herbarium contains probably fully as many species as of native ones.

The native species are represented in many cases by a large number of specimens showing the range of the species, derived from important government surveys and expeditions, which gives them an historic value, as well as representing the types upon which the species were founded. The entire number of mounted sheets is from sixty to seventy thousand.

The Library connected with the Herbarium contains all the common North American botanical text-books and manuals, all the United States government reports, most of the other larger works relating to the flora of this country, and nearly all the large systematic works published in English or Latin. These pertain especially to flowering plants and ferns, few important accessions on the cellular cryptogams having yet been received.

The Herbarium and Library are at all times accessible, during business hours, to students and investigators, and is well worthy of the attention of specialists and botanists who may visit Washington.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Articles in back numbers.—Arrangement of herbaria, xi. 98,120; treatment of exsiccatæ, xi. 20; mounting plants, cement, ix. 62, glue, iv. 215, xi. 67,120; preserving plants, carbon bisulphide, ii. 100, poison, i. 27; pressure in making specimens, i. 21; shipping live plants, ii. 107, 133; Myxomycetes, their collection and preservation, x. 290.

Mounting delicate plants.—To mount delicate ferns and other plants, take a pane of glass of sufficient size and coat lightly with rather thin fish glue. Lay the plant on the glass and put a newspaper over it, or the reverse. With handkerchief in hand, rub the paper so that every part of the plant will touch the glue. Remove the paper, then carefully lift the plant from the glass and lay it, glue side up, on the table or another newspaper; apply the sheet of mounting paper and rub as before. With reasonable care, this method gives the most excellent results.—A. B. SEYMOUR.

Liquid fish glue is unequaled for herbarium use. It is now offered for sale in the stores as Le Page's Liquid Glue, in small tin cans, at 75 cents per can. It can be obtained of the Denison Manufacturing Company, Milk street, Boston, for 35 cents per pint, or in five gallon lots at $1.65 per gallon—with an antiseptic added to prevent spoiling. To be sure that it shall not spoil, add a few drops of carbolic acid or corrosive sublimate.—A. B. SEYMOUR.

Disposition of thick specimens.—It is a problem what to do with thick specimens—rough-dried Hymenomycetes, puff-balls (which are valueless if pressed), acorns, cones, etc. Minute specimens, like the Myxomycetes, Aspergillus, etc., which are likely to suffer from pressure, are easily preserved in shallow pill-boxes, glued to the herbarium sheets; but this plan will not do for the larger things I have mentioned. I think I have solved this problem, so far as my wants are concerned, by having heavy pasteboard boxes made, with deep covers reaching nearly to the bottom. These boxes are two, three and four inches deep, to accommodate specimens of different sizes, the smallest being most needed, and measure outside 11½ x 16½ inches, so that they may set in the herbarium case. To facilitate their removal, each is provided with a strong double tape passing through the front and bottom and spread on the latter beneath the paper lining. These boxes are "spaced" within by small boxes of several sizes, to meet different needs, the largest of these being two to four times the size of the smaller, so that they are interchangeable at will. To keep out the all-pervasive smoke and dust of St. Louis, these inner boxes are covered by a folder of heavy manilla. Boxes of this description, reinforced at the angles with muslin, are made for me by the Holman Box Co., of this city, for $15.00 per hundred. The "spacing" costs about $12.00 per hundred additional. By using them, the acorns, say of a section of white oaks, are grouped in a box immediately under the covers containing the mounted specimens, and so in the same compartment of the case with them.--WILLIAM TRELEASE.

FOR SMALL FRUITS, cones, etc., and especially for the Myxomycetes and other fungi, which have to be preserved in little boxes, I provide shallow boxes 11½ x 16½ inches, and one inch deep. In these I arrange the species boxes. The larger boxes may be used as *genus boxes*, in case the species are numerous enough. I do not do so yet, but may have to before long. Put the label on the front end of the box and slip it into the herbarium case in its proper place.—C. E. BESSEY.

EDITORIAL.

THE PREPARATION of this number has given us more than usual pleasure on one account especially. This is in respect to the hearty coöperation with which the botanists of the country have aided the undertaking. They have contributed liberally, and when for any reason a contribution was not possible